



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

Anderson County, TN

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Anderson County for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The target area for the Pilot is the Coal Creek watershed area (population 4,483), which once was a prosperous coal mining region in eastern Tennessee. The Coal Creek watershed includes the communities of Briceville, Fraterville, Beech Grove, and Lake City. Acid mine drainage and heavy metals from slag heaps, both related to coal mining are known to contaminate the area. In addition, there is a perception of further contamination because of the underground nature of many coal mining activities. The existing blight, fear of additional contamination, and lack of resources are obstacles to revitalizing the Coal Creek watershed area. Redevelopment of brownfields is a key element in the Coal Creek watershed communities' effort to attract new residents, expand business opportunities, and stimulate tourism in the area.

The area now struggles with the interrelated economic devastation and environmental degradation left behind by the departure of the coal mining industry. Many residents are without financial resources, jobs, education, and sufficient health care. More than 30 percent of families in area communities live in poverty. Per capita income in these communities ranges from \$6,200 to \$7,600, and unemployment ranges from 10 to 15 percent.

OBJECTIVES

The county's objective is to complete the groundwork necessary to make economic recovery feasible in the watershed area. This Pilot will build upon the process developed for the Dark Shades Brownfields Pilot Project in Central City, Pennsylvania, and includes actively involving the communities in the redevelopment process. In order to accomplish this objective, the Pilot will conduct Phase I and Phase II site assessments of priority sites; develop a strategic plan for the cleanup and redevelopment of priority sites; and actively engage community members in all phases of the process.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Anderson County,
Tennessee*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets potential brownfields in the Coal Creek watershed area for redevelopment in order to stimulate economic and environmental recovery of the area, which was devastated by the departure of the coal mining industry.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Locating and inventorying potential brownfield sites;
- Prioritizing brownfield sites and identifying sites most appropriate for redevelopment;
- Conducting Phase I assessments of these sites and conducting and evaluating Phase II assessments of priority sites as needed;

- Developing a comprehensive cleanup and redevelopment plan and seeking public consensus on the plan; and
- Conducting public meetings and other community outreach activities to inform and engage individuals and organizations in each phase of the process.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.